

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY China/Hong Kong

DATE DISTR 6 March 1952

SUBJECT Chinese Communist Travel Controls.
 Shanghai-Hong Kong

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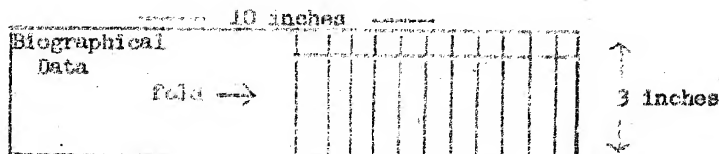
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SUPPLEMENT TO
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- In the spring of 1951 the travel permit of a person going from Shanghai to Canton by train was not checked, but a person who walked about on the train was apt to be questioned about his "snooping." A new arrival who registered a hotel in Canton was asked to show his travel permit before being escorted to his room. A clerk accompanied him to his room, collected his travel permit there, and registered him in his book. He then returned the permit, took the traveller's finger prints, and obtained a biographical statement from him. The form used was ten inches long and three inches wide, and was folded horizontally across the middle, providing a space five inches by three inches on each side of the fold. One half was used for biographical data and the other half for finger-print information. On this second half there were ten horizontal lines and a vertical line to the right forming a column in which the clerk recorded data regarding the traveller's fingers by inserting crosses and circles. The appearance of the form was as follows:



The form was prepared in duplicate. The clerk took the completed form and within several hours returned one copy showing a police chop. This copy served as a temporary residence certificate.

- An Oriental traveller from Canton to Shench'uan (114-08. 22-32) was not required to show his travel permit at the time he purchased a ticket for Shench'uan, but he might be subjected to a spot check by plain-clothes railway workers, customs employees, or the security police at the railroad station when he was leaving. The check might be merely a routine check of his travel permit or it might include a check of his luggage. A westerner was checked

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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upon boarding the train, on the train, and upon leaving the train. The check required the showing of his travel permit in each instance and included inspection of his luggage upon entering and leaving the train.

3. At Shench'uan it was necessary to obtain another travel permit to leave the country by applying to the local police. However, the Shench'uan police would not issue an exit permit to a non-resident of Shench'uan unless he had an exit permit from his place of departure. The police examined the original exit permit and questioned the traveller concerning the date and place where the permit was issued, whether the photograph was the original photograph, and so forth. After this the traveller was required to fill in biographical data on two forms and to supply two photographs of himself. After receiving the completed forms and photographs, the police made out an exit permit with an official seal and gave it to the traveller. The whole proceedings required about thirty minutes.
4. In Shench'uan it was also possible for a person without a British permit for entry into Kowloon to make arrangements for illegal entry. An example of how the security controls work and of how illegal entry to the New Territories may be accomplished is illustrated below. In one such instance, a person travelling from Shanghai to Hong Kong was asked while registering at a hotel in Shench'uan if he planned to go to Hong Kong, and if he had a British permit to enter British territory. When he replied that he did plan to go to Hong Kong but had no permit, he was told he could be taken across the border for a price. The price agreed upon was HK\$500. He was told that if any Chinese authorities asked him about an entry permit from the British government, he was to say he did not have one but he had friends waiting in Loui who would take him across the border. If asked whether his friends were from the Yellow Or -- the name of the smuggling group arranging his passage across the border -- he was told to say they were not. He was told to wait at his hotel until time for the next train from Loui to Kowloon. Just before train time he was told to go through the customs.
5. At the station, his travel permits were shown to the customs and the customs officials checked his baggage thoroughly. They listed the amount of jewelry and other valuables he possessed on back of his exit permit as authority for him to bring these items back into the country tax-free. He was permitted to take only one ounce of gold and HK\$10 out of the country. Jen min p'iao were changed at a branch of the Bank of China for Hong Kong currency. Any jen min p'iao valued at over HK\$10 was "contributed" to the Chinese "volunteers" for the purchase of planes and other military equipment. At the exit of the customs offices, customs officials and security police re-examined the traveller's exit permits and checked to see that his baggage was marked properly.
6. At the barricade between Shench'uan and Loui, a member of the security police stopped the traveller and checked his documents against a list he carried. The traveller was then asked if he had a British entry permit. When he replied that he had friends at Loui, he was asked how much he had paid his friends. He said he had not paid them anything. He was then permitted to go through the barricade. A representative of the Yellow Or on the Shench'uan side signalled to a confederate on the Loui side as he passed through the barricade. The British customs officials -- Hong Kong Chinese -- examined his suitcase cursorily and passed him. Had he not wanted to open his luggage, the customs officials would have passed it for about HK\$50. After clearing the customs in Loui, the traveller was taken to a shack and told by the Yellow Or representatives there that while travelling from Loui to Kowloon he should act naturally, read a newspaper, and not talk or look about. He was not questioned between Loui and Kowloon.

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